

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM TOM RESTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING

1. THE BRIEFING FOR MONDAY, APRIL 17, WAS ONCE AGAIN
SHORT AND PLACID. SPOKESMAN OPENED WITH A STATEMENT OF
DEEP REGRET AT THE DEATH OF GEN. LUCIUS CLAY.

2. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO MADE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING
AMB. ATHERTON'S TRAVEL PLANS:

--AS PART OF OUR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE
PARTIES, THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS ASKED AMB. ATHERTON
TO GO TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION ON POS-
SIBLE NEXT MOVES IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

--AMB. ATHERTON WILL GO FIRST TO CAIRO, ARRIVING THE
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END OF THIS WEEK, AND SEVERAL DAYS LATER HE PLANS TO GO TO
ISRAEL.

--HIS PRESENT PLAN IS TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON THE
LAST WEEK OF APRIL AFTER THIS ROUND OF TALKS IN BOTH
COUNTRIES.

3. IN GIVE AND TAKE FOLLOWING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, SPOKESMAN

REFUSED TO DIVULGE NEW INFORMATION ABOUT A POSSIBLE TRIP BY DAYAN TO THE US. HE DID REASSERT THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN WILL BE COMING TO THE US FOR A PRIVATE VISIT MARKING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL. SPOKESMAN CALLED A MEETING BETWEEN BEGIN AND CARTER "POSSIBLE, BUT AT THIS POINT WE HAVE NOTHING DEFINITE FOR YOU ON SUCH A MEETING."

4. AS TO AN ISRAELI CABINET DECISION ON THE MEANING OF UN RESOLUTION 242, SPOKESMAN SAID:

--WE HAVE LOOKED AT THE TEXT CAREFULLY. WE ARE EXPECTING A REPORT ON DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ON IT.

--I HAVE NO DETAILED COMMENT ON THE STATEMENT. WE WOULD BE PLEASED, OF COURSE, TO DISCUSS ANY POSITIONS WHICH WOULD CARRY THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD. WE EXPECT, AS WELL AS OTHER SUBJECTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATIONS, WILL COME UP DURING AMB. ATHERTON'S VISIT OUT THERE IN THE AREA.

5. THIS MORNING TIME MAGAZINE PUBLISHED A STORY ALLEGING THAT SHEVCHENKO "HAS BEEN TALKING TO US INTELLIGENCE UNCLASSIFIED

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OPERATIVES FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS AND THAT HE IS ASKING 100 THOUSAND DOLLARS TO TELL HIS STORY TO THE USG. SPOKESMAN SAID: "IT IS OUR POLICY NOT TO COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS OF THIS KIND."

6. ON THE HIMALAYAN NUCLEAR DEVICE AFFAIR, SPOKESMAN SAID: "I WOULD JUST NOTE THAT MR. DESAI HAS ADDRESSED THIS QUESTION IN SOME DETAIL OUT IN INDIA AND I WOULD REFER YOU TO HIS STATEMENT. I HAVE NOTHING IN PARTICULAR TO SAY." CHRISTOPHER

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